VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC INJURIES AND SUICIDE AMONG WOMEN OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE IN IRAN

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Background As a part of a national home safety programme in Iran, a surveillance system was designed and implemented in the
whole country (especially in rural areas) to register those injuries which resulted in an emergency room visit.

**Aims/Objectives/Purpose** The aim of this study was to map out some epidemiological aspects of self inflicted and unintentional injuries among Iranian women at reproductive age using the national registry.

**Methods** Injury data were taken from a national-based injury surveillance system over the period 2000–2002. The study population comprised 31.5% of Iran’s population.

**Results/Outcomes** Of all the 307,064 home injuries reported during the years 2000–2002, about 152,600 cases (49.7%) involved women. About half of these women (76,474) belonged to reproductive age. The majority (42.7%) of injuries among reproductive age women were burn wounds followed by lacerations in 32.6%. Eighty-five percent of suicide cases were poisonings followed by 11% of cases being due to burns. However, 45.2% of burn suicides were fatal compared to only 0.89% fatality ratio for poisoning. Of all women victim cases, 1029 died, 174 victims became disabled and the remaining improved or were undergoing therapy when reported.

**Significance/Contribution to the Field** Injuries especially burns are a major health problem for women at reproductive age in Iran and should be considered as a priority for prevention measures.

In addition, the surveillance system employed in this study can be discussed as a practical model for Low and Middle income countries.